

# Ohio Beetles Bulletin

Occasional Publication of the Ohio Coleopterists

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Erotylidae (Pleasing Fungus Beetle)  
***Microsternus ulkei*** (Crotch)

The Ohio Beetles Bulletin (OBB) was developed to provide the Ohio Coleopterists membership a means of communication in conjunction with the Ohio Coleopterists Newsletter. It is hoped the OBB will provide an informative and enjoyable means of sharing information on the fascinating world of Beetles.

***“When we have experienced the atavistic joy of collecting in the open air and the manipulative pleasure of setting and mounting our chosen beetles there follows the refined intellectual delight of naming them with precision”.***

Quote by G.B. Walsh taken from the first edition of the Coleopterists Handbook. W.J.B. Crotch, General Editor London, December 1953.

Cover Photo: ***Microsternus ulkei*** (Crotch) Specimen collected by Ken Karns 08-August-2009. Hocking Co. Ohio (4.3 mm).  
Collected from shelf fungus on rotten log. A strikingly handsome, though seldom collected, species.

# OHIO COLEOPTERISTS

## Meeting Notice



The Ohio Coleopterists will kick off the new year with a get together at the home of OC President, Ken Karns.

DATE: Saturday January 17, 2015

TIME: 10:00 am - ? (lunch is walking distance from the meeting)

PLACE: Ken Karns Home and Museum  
1637 Sheridan Drive  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

CONTACT: Ken Karns  
Cell: 740-215-4305  
Home: 740-653-7510  
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AGENDA: Field Schedule for 2015  
Data Base Demonstration and Data Entry  
Specimen Identification  
Photo Sessions  
and more.....

Please RSVP to Ken Karns if you plan to attend.

## *Cicindela splendida* Hentz

Seldom observed beetle alive and well in southeastern Ohio



The Tiger beetles are now generally accepted as a subfamily of the Carabidae. Approximately two genera and 21 species are known to occur in Ohio (Graves & Brzoska 1991). Most Tiger beetle species, though often widely distributed, have very specific habitat associations with many being generally scarce often due to this restricted habitat. Although widely distributed across the eastern and midwestern United States, *Cicindela splendida* is generally seldom encountered in Ohio. In The Tiger Beetles of Ohio, (Graves & Brzoska 1991) the authors list *C. splendida* as rare and recorded from only three Ohio counties; Adams, Hocking and Vinton, with the habitat described as “inhabits clay banks, road-cuts, and is occasionally found in open areas with sparse vegetation”.

During a combined field trip of the Ohio Coleopterists and the Chrysalis (an undergraduate entomology club through Ohio State University) to the cabin property of Ken Karns and the surrounding Zaleski State Forest in Vinton County, Ohio during the spring of 2014, a population of *C. splendida* was discovered. Clancy Short of the Chrysalis group made the initial observation on 12-April-2014 with the collection of a single specimen. Realizing the significance of this occurrence, Ken Karns and George Keeney returned the



## *Cicindela splendida* Hentz

Seldom observed beetle alive and well in southeastern Ohio

Continued.....

following day in order to confirm the locality through GPS and to observe and record the beetle in its habitat. The site consisted of an open area along a horse trail with +/- sandy clay soil with sparse very low vegetation with taller weeds and briars along the periphery. The animal “traffic” appeared to actually create a favorable habitat by keeping the encroaching vegetation from taking over the area. In addition, the area was in a power line right of way which also served to keep the bordering forest from growing over (see figure 2.)



(figure 2) George Keeney in “stealth mode” at the locality for *Cicindela splendida* Hentz. Note the narrow open sandy/clay soil trail (arrow) with bordering low vegetation giving way to moderate height weeds and briars.

*C. splendida* is a spring-fall species so I returned to the site on 27-September-2014 with fellow OC member Dick Maxey and we again located the beetle at the same locality. We will continue to monitor this site for beetle activity and now familiar with the preferred habitat, will investigate other areas for additional populations.



# Ohio Coleopterists Research

## Seldom Encountered Beetle Family

By: Ken Karns

Ongoing collecting efforts by the author at his cabin property in Vinton County, Ohio has resulted in a welcome diversity of interesting and seldom encountered Coleoptera. One such family is that of the Leiodidae. With species of this family appearing rare in collections (Baranowski, 1993. Peck 1996, 2009,...) little is known regarding this family in Ohio. Over the past few years, I have collected a surprisingly varied number of species of Leiodidae with most being new records for Ohio and many demonstrating large range extensions for eastern North America. Realizing the significance of these collections, I have enlisted the help of good friends and fellow Ohio Coleopterist members George Keeney, Dick Maxey and Scott Hogsten in extensive research into the Ohio Leiodidae with the purpose of expanding the knowledge of this interesting and seldom encountered family. Our goal is a series of publications on the family. I will keep the membership updated on this project as it develops.



All male members of the Leiodidae contain a well sclerotized aedeagus of significant diagnostic value. I have perfected the dissection and mounting of the male genitalia to allow the internal structures to be visualized and studied. Most keys rely heavily on the male aedeagus for identification to species.

This exceptional photo is courtesy of George Keeney and it and others will be critical to the success of future research and publications on the family.

*Isoplastus fossor* **Horn** (male aedeagus)  
Family: Leiodidae, Tribe: Leiodini